

POLICE URGE SIPP TO DROP CHARGES

Promise Harlem Hotelkeeper Immunity in Effort to Save High Officials of Force from Exposure.

WHITMAN WATCHES CASE

District Attorney, Suspicious of Sudden Activity by Waldo's Men, Will Scan Closely the Evidence Against Graft Exposer.

District Attorney Whitman was informed yesterday that a high police official called on Mrs. George A. Sipp a few nights ago and told her that if her husband would drop all charges and sign an affidavit exonerating every one connected with the Police Department except Fox, the patrolman, the charges now being pressed against him by the police would be dropped.

Mrs. Sipp sent word down yesterday that she was not well enough to talk about this or about anything else connected with her husband's accusations against the police grafters.

The question of the sudden activity of the police against Sipp, which did not begin until after Sipp had given evidence against grafters to the aldermen, loomed larger yesterday in the police graft situation than even the serious charges which the police have lodged against the former Harlem hotelkeeper.

District Attorney Whitman explained that it would be necessary for the police to present their evidence against Sipp, so that he could obtain an indictment if the charges were true, and that if an indictment was voted he would take immediate steps to obtain Sipp's extradition from New Jersey.

"From what I have heard it is an atrocious crime that Sipp is accused of," said Mr. Whitman last night, "and I will, of course, aid the police in every way possible in the matter."

The District Attorney was frank to say, however, that in view of the counter accusations of a "frame-up" made by Sipp and his friends he would have to have the evidence in the case before proceeding. In other words, the District Attorney does not intend to take any chance of being accused later, if Sipp should be able to prove his contention that the charges against him have been "framed up" by the police, of having lent himself to any such scheme of discrediting a witness by the police.

Police Act Suddenly.

Emory R. Buckner, counsel to the aldermanic committee, who first brought Sipp's story of \$100 a month police graft payments for a period of more than twelve years to the attention of the public from the witness stand of the aldermen, did not hesitate to call attention to the fact that it was only after Sipp testified against the police that he was arrested and charged with a crime.

"No move was made against this man by the police for twelve years," said Mr. Buckner, "although for all that time he was conducting a hotel which he himself admitted was of such a character that he had to pay 'protection' money to the police to keep it running, but almost the minute he makes the public accusation that he had paid this graft he is suddenly charged by the police with a crime or crimes which are alleged to have been committed some time ago."

Although not claiming to know anything about the truth or falsity of the alleged charges against Sipp, and though not in any way defending the hotelkeeper, Mr. Buckner insisted that the work of the police in ignoring the man's lawbreaking for twelve years and then becoming suddenly active against him only after he accused the

This Morning's News

LOCAL.	Page
Murdock Promises More Revelations.	1
Two Die in Xmas Tree Fire.	1
Woman Runs Elevator at Fire.	1
Police Fear Sipp Exposure.	1
Wilson's Mind Still Open on Cabinet.	2
Low Tide Draws Beach Combbers.	2
Tale of Luckenbach Survivor.	3
Dr. Wise Calls Emancipation Myth.	3
Reactor 25 Years in St. Andrew's.	3
Prominent Man Strangely Missing.	4
Golf Heats Talk on Recall.	4
Why "Insurance Trust" Failed.	7
Whitman's Appeal Bureau Busy in 1912.	7
Church Calls Dr. Williamson.	9
Detective Fires at Pickpockets.	14
Infant Mortality Reduced for 1912.	14
Crazy Impatient at Ellis Island.	14
Women Riot at Hippodrome.	14
GENERAL.	
Hill Can't Hold Miss Wilson's Crowd.	1
Navy Honor Roll Increased.	2
Congress Makes Record for Inquiries.	2
Dies in Husband's Arms in Wreck.	3
Legislature Lacks Veterans.	4
More Money Needed for Barge Canal.	5
FOREIGN.	
British Praise Taft's Canal Stand.	1
Murder in Midair Planned.	1
More Concessions from Turkey.	5
Nazim Believes in His Army.	5
Nervous Market in London.	5
MISCELLANEOUS.	
News for Women.	6
Weather.	7
Shipping.	7
Army and Navy.	7
Editorial.	9
Music.	9
Obituary.	9
Sports.	10
Financial and Markets.	12 and 13
Real Estate.	13

MURDER IN MIDAIR PLANNED IN LONDON

Aeroplane Motors Tampered With on Three Occasions, Possibly Through Animosity Toward Certain Pilots.

(By Cable to The Tribune.) London, Jan. 6.—The Royal Aero Club is investigating what "The Daily Express" says is probably the first attempt at murder in midair. Lawrence Santoni, managing director of the British Deperdussin Aeroplane Company, has put before the club allegations of the gravest nature. He states that on three separate occasions attempts have been made so to damage the engines of certain military aeroplanes that they would break down while in flight. The outrages, he says, were obviously the work of experts. Who they were, how they obtained access to the machines for long enough to tamper with them and what their motives were, whether animosity against particular pilots or possibly passengers, the jealousy of particular aeroplane makers or possibly a settled design against the British army of the air, are questions which will have to be thrashed out by the Royal Aero Club and possibly by the police. English people are always ready to be scared by stories of phantom German airships sailing over the country, and consequently considerable prominence has been given by to-day's papers to the flight of a mysterious aircraft over Dover early on Saturday. It was not sufficiently light at the time to distinguish the shape of the flying machine, but from the noise made by its engines it is believed to have been an airship and not an aeroplane. It came in from the sea and travelled over the town in a northeasterly direction. A local road inspector says he saw the airship at 5 o'clock in the morning. His attention was first attracted by its noise. On looking in the direction whence the sound came he saw a light travelling at great speed from over the sea. The noise made by the aircraft in flight was also heard by a local tradesman and a police constable. As the wind was blowing half a gale at the time the craft must have been fitted with powerful engines and the pilot must have been an intrepid airman.

WOMAN RUNS ELEVATOR TO CALL HELP AT FIRE

Runs Down Through Smoke, While Others on Upper Floors Are in Panic.

STAIRWAY IN A BLAZE

Bottle of Benzine and Papers and Steps Soaked With It Found When Firemen Extinguish Flames.

Clouds of smoke rising from the stairway between the fourth and fifth floors of the studio building, No. 29 West 31st street, about 5 o'clock yesterday afternoon, brought frightened tenants out of their rooms into the upper hallways. Many women and children were in the building and some began to scream. In a moment a small panic had begun.

One woman, however, kept her nerve and went about the business in hand with admirable coolness. She was Miss Josephine E. Martin, who has a shop on the street floor of the building. Leaping far out over the stairway on the eighth floor, Miss Martin peered through the smoke and saw a small but brisk fire on the stairs, two floors below.

The frightened tenants had been ringing the elevator bell, but to no purpose, so Miss Martin started downstairs, four steps at a time, for help. At the fifth floor she found the elevator, but no operator. Although Miss Martin had never run an elevator, she had seen it done, so, stepping inside the car, she gave the lever a pull. The car suddenly started skyward. A quick reverse soon had it shooting down through the smoke to the first floor, where the amateur operator sprang out and ran to the street.

Directly opposite the house were the Life Apartments, and Miss Martin knew that there was fire fighting apparatus in the building. Thomas Powers, the janitor, turned in an alarm and Patrolman Thomas Shanley went back with Miss Martin and fought the fire until the firemen arrived. The blaze was extinguished quickly, with little damage to the building, but the firemen were rewarded for their trouble by the finding of indubitable evidence that the case was one of incendiarism.

The fire had been started with a bunch of newspapers. Two steps above where they lay was a bottle two-thirds full of benzine, and the woodwork nearby had been splashed with the liquid. Fire Chief Marshal Trial investigated and then called in Assistant Marshal Wade. They put men at work on the case. Yesterday's fire was the third of the kind in the building within a little over a week.

HERE IS A FISH TALE!

Caught Three Bass at Once on One Line—How?

Emmet Taxter, secretary of the Tarrytown Rod and Reel Club, made a wonderful catch of three bass on one line yesterday, and when he displayed the fish and told the story later to the members there was a disposition to doubt his assertions until Edward Ackery, president of the club, came to his rescue.

Ackery explained that while he was out on Friday he got a double strike, but his line parted and the fish got away. Yesterday when Taxter got his strike his fish got tangled up with the line holding the two that broke away on Friday from Ackery. They were much exhausted after being hooked together for nearly twenty-four hours, and Taxter had little trouble in landing all three. Taxter's catch is considered the most remarkable of the season. Ackery identified his line and hooks, which Taxter exhibited to prove his tale.

BILLION DOLLAR BUDGET

British Expenditure on Navy Alone Close to \$250,000,000.

(By Cable to The Tribune.) London, Jan. 6.—The cost of running the United Kingdom for the next twelve months will amount to the colossal sum of £200,000,000. The navy estimates alone will reach an aggregate of almost \$250,000,000. This increase of upward of \$20,000,000 is due to many causes, but chiefly to the higher cost of shipbuilding.

All contracts that have been lately placed and that will have to be placed in the near future reflect this movement. The calculated cost of constructing an ordinary merchant vessel has advanced more than 300 per cent in the last two years, and in the case of warships the difference is proving not less remarkable. Everything required by the Admiralty, guns, torpedoes, armor, ships' plates, all show advances. The period of cheap shipbuilding from which the country gained an immense advantage has come to an end.

The army estimates will also show an increase, and will be heavy charges on the civil service estimates for old age pensions, labor bureaus and insurance.

DIVORCED FROM DEAD MAN

Woman Didn't Know Husband Was Titanic Victim.

Denver, Jan. 5.—Not knowing that her husband, whom she had not seen for five years, was one of the victims of the Titanic disaster, Mrs. Mary Rippey, of Denver, obtained a divorce Friday.

To-day Mrs. Rippey learned her husband's fate through a New York attorney, W. H. Simpson, who wrote that Rippey had gone to London, later had sailed for New York, under the name of Charles Taft, and had not been reported among the rescued when the Titanic went down.

SUICIDE LEFT FRAUD HINT

Letter Says Notary Helped Cheat Him of Fire Insurance.

Hymen Wagner, business name "Aaron E. Tomkin," thirty-five years old, committed suicide yesterday afternoon in his furnished room at No. 143 East 111th street by inhaling gas. He had attached a tube to the gas jet and had drawn the other end through a hole in a piece of newspaper and put it in his mouth, the newspaper covering his face. The room was a small one and had no window.

Coroner's Physician Lehane found a letter addressed to District Attorney Whitman, saying Wagner had had a photograph store at No. 2890 Eighth avenue, and in 1907 it was burned out. Wagner inclosed the draft of a letter framed, so he said, by a notary who handled his insurance. Owing to this letter he was induced to settle for \$250 instead of the \$500 to which he was entitled. The \$500, he said, would have been sufficient to start another store. He said he had lived on the \$250 and tried to find a position, but could not.

BABY CRUSHED BY MOTHER

Burglar Frightens Woman to Death—Child Will Die.

(By Telegraph to The Tribune.) Uniontown, Penn., Jan. 5.—When a burglar attempted to break into the home of W. E. Johnston, a farmer of Cheat Haven, this county, last night, Mrs. Johnston, who was caring for a one-year-old daughter who was ill, fell dead from fright.

In falling, her body struck the baby, and when neighbors, who had been attracted by the woman's screams, arrived the child was unconscious. It had been crushed and cannot live. When officers arrested William Simmons men and boys tried to take him from his captors. The latter succeeded in getting their prisoner into an automobile, but not until his clothing had been torn off and he had been rendered unconscious by a blow on the head with a club. He was placed in jail here.

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TAFT'S TOLL STAND PLEASES BRITAIN

"Right and Honorable," the President's Arbitration Declaration Is Called by the London Press.

PRAISE FOR THIS COUNTRY

"American People Are a Big Nation and Want Nothing Petty"—Chief Executive Opposes Submission to The Hague Tribunal.

(By Cable to The Tribune.) London, Jan. 6.—President Taft's declaration in favor of referring the Panama Canal tolls controversy to arbitration is heartily welcomed on this side of the Atlantic. "The Daily Mail" says:

"President Taft has taken the right and honorable course by declaring his willingness to submit the question of Panama Canal tolls to arbitration. Any other policy would have been almost unthinkable on the part of a statesman who, two years ago, devoted all his efforts to furthering the cause of international peace throughout the world. 'But in matters of foreign policy Presidents may propose, but the Senate disposes, and we have yet to discover whether that body will follow President Taft's lead. If it does, the Panama question is as good as settled, for of the strength of the British case there can be no possible doubt.'"

Suspense Is Irritating.

"The Daily Telegraph" says: "There could be no better beginning for the work of preparing to celebrate the signing of the treaty of Ghent than President Taft's proposed treatment of our outstanding cause of disagreement. A degree of acerbity already has been developed on the question, in spite of the studiously moderate handling of it, in most quarters upon our own side, and that feeling is scarcely likely to diminish so long as the matter remains in suspense."

"After all, it is unlike most of our past causes of dispute with the United States, is a question upon which an overwhelming body of American public opinion favors this country's contention, and this situation is exactly met by the proposal to arbitrate. No reasonable mind can rank the matter among those disputes which are upon the highest plane of national interest and sentiment, and which no great people will consent to submit to any arbitration but that of its own sense of honor."

"The Standard" says: "It is with great satisfaction that we welcome the declaration of President Taft. It shows that in Anglo-Saxondom, at least, arbitration has a useful part to play. If, indeed, such powers were incapable of accomplishing a settlement in this manner, we should despair altogether of the utility of an international tribunal. It is only just to recognize the highly honorable part played by the greater portion of the American press in this controversy. It has given most vigorous expression to what we believe is the prevailing sentiment of the American people, who are a big nation and want nothing petty in their relations with other countries."

High Admiration for Taft.

"The Daily News" describes the declaration of the President as a most welcome New Year message to Great Britain and the world, and expresses the highest admiration for Mr. Taft's good faith in offering to submit a doubtful cause to arbitration.

"It places the arbitration idea in its true aspect before the world," adds the paper.

Washington, Jan. 5.—President Taft is willing to submit to arbitration the questions at issue between Great Britain and the United States over Panama Canal tolls, but he does not favor arbitration by the Hague tribunal. This fact became known here to-night upon the President's return from New York.

Although he has not yet given the matter of a tribunal much thought, the President probably would prefer a special board of arbitration composed of an equal number of citizens of the United States and Great Britain. Such was to be the composition of the arbitral court he proposed to settle any vital question arising between nations when he spoke on behalf of the arbitration treaties.

The President has expressed to friends the view that at The Hague all Europe would be against this nation, and that the moral pressure on the court would be enormous, because all Europe is interested in Panama tolls just as much as England is.

In a court in which only Great Britain and the United States were represented, it is argued, there would be a much greater chance of a fair decision. Several Democratic Senators have voiced the opinion that a special tribunal should be created to arbitrate this dispute.

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CROWD SWAMPS HALL TO HEAR JESSIE WILSON

Drawing Power of President-Elect's Daughter Too Strong for Trenton's Y. W. C. A. Building.

(By Telegraph to The Tribune.) Trenton, N. J., Jan. 5.—There were so many people anxious to hear Miss Jessie Woodrow Wilson, daughter of the President-elect, to-day that it was necessary to transfer the place of the meeting from the auditorium of the Young Women's Christian Association to the Central Baptist Church, five times the size of the original meeting place.

Miss Wilson is an eloquent for a girl as her father is for a man. She told a number of personal stories, which beautifully illustrated her talk on "The Joy of Service." Miss Wilson has long been active in the work of the Young Women's Christian Association, and she said that much of the pleasure derived from life was the joy of doing things. She strongly recommended the work of the association, and said that the person who lives in a community and does the community no service is not making the best of life. In illustrating the importance of little things, Miss Wilson told a little personal story. "I watched a beautiful star at Princeton for a long time. Finally, I went to the observatory at the university and looked at my star through the telescope. To my surprise I found that my



MISS JESSIE WILSON.

(Photo copyright, 1912, by the Campbell Studio.)

MURDOCK PROMISES BIGGER SENSATION

His Story Will Overshadow Edey Double Tragedy if He Is Called, He Says.

HOPES TO DODGE SUBPENA

Denies He and His Wife Agreed to Share Proceeds of \$100,000 Suit Against Edey, as She Told.

Gardner Murdock, one of the principals in the Edey-Murdock scandal, which resulted in Edey's shooting and killing his wife and himself last Thursday morning at their home in Bellport, Long Island, gave an interview last night at the Terra Marine Inn on Staten Island, where he is employed.

Murdock, after admitting that he had instituted a suit for \$100,000 for alienation of affections against Henry C. Edey, said he would continue the action against the Edey estate, and was confident he would win.

Gardner Murdock, whose wife, Mrs. Nellie Murdock, testified before the Coroner at Bellport on Saturday that Edey and Murdock had agreed to "swap wives," said he was not in Bellport on that day. He added that he hoped to avoid service of a subpoena, as he had no desire to return to his former home at this time. Murdock said Mrs. Edey did not love her husband, who was often cruel to her and beat her. Murdock said that he did not love Mrs. Edey, who wanted to get a divorce because of Edey's treatment.

The statement that he and his wife had arranged to share one-third of any money recovered from Edey was denied by Murdock. He said his wife did not tell the truth when she made that statement on the witness stand.

Murdock ridiculed the idea that his suit against Edey was responsible for the murder and suicide at Bellport, and denied that Edey had given him \$10,000 with which to go to Texas and get a divorce. He said he had not seen Mrs. Edey since leaving New York last August, nor had heard from her, directly or indirectly.

"When I left Bellport last August," said Murdock, "I made a promise not to return until August, 1913. I will keep that promise to the best of my ability, unless I am served with a subpoena to appear before the Coroner. When I do return, however, there will be a bigger sensation than was caused by the Edey murder and suicide."

As Murdock said this his eyes flashed and he appeared strongly wrought up. He would not amplify his statement, however, and would give no intimation of the nature of the sensation.

The Bellport livery stable keeper said the news of the murder and suicide at the home of the Edeys had been "quite a shock" to him, but he was satisfied he was not in any way responsible for it. He admitted his wife had been to visit him for a week at the Terra Marine Inn, a short time before the double shooting, but said they had not lived together. They had talked over the suit against Edey, he said, but did not discuss sharing the proceeds.

CZAREVITCH ON RIVIERA

Crown Prince Removed Secretly from Russia to France.

Paris, Jan. 5.—According to a Nice dispatch to "Le Journal" the Russian Crown Prince Alexis arrived secretly at Mentone, fourteen miles from Nice, on Friday night. He proceeded from Mentone to the neighboring winter resort of Cap Martin, where he will remain to complete his convalescence.

PARENTS DIE IN XMAS TREE FIRE

Flames Trap Mr. and Mrs. Robert Raetz While They Seek to Save Children Already Safe.

BODIES FOUND TOGETHER

Onrush of Blaze So Swift That Guest and Maid Barely Have Time to Flee with Little Ones—Fire Imperils Other Houses.

A fiery aftermath of the Christmas holidays which cost two lives and gave four other persons a narrow escape from death threatened the residential district around 81st street and Fifth avenue for several hours yesterday afternoon, when flames starting from the illumination of a tiny Christmas tree in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. Raetz, at No. 42 East 81st street, destroyed the house and trapped them in the building while they were trying to rescue their two small children. Their bodies, burned beyond recognition, were found later by firemen near a window on the top floor.

The lives of the two children, the oldest two and a half years, were saved only by the prompt action of a maid and a guest at the house. So swift was the rush of the flames that when fire apparatus, answering an alarm which was sent in within two minutes of the outbreak of the fire, arrived the richly furnished house was a seething furnace of flame and long streamers of fire were fanning upward from a trap door in the roof.

The tragedy which was taking place in the Raetz household was discovered at 5:30 yesterday afternoon, when Katherine King, a maid in the home of Dr. Samuel Murtland, next door, heard screams coming from somewhere outside the third floor. She ran up and looked out of the window, to see Marie Gould, a nurse in the Raetz house, trying to climb over an iron picket fence, which separated it from the extension next door. Miss King climbed through the window, and in trying to help the nurse over the fence found she was clinging to a naked baby wrapped in a blanket. Once safely over the nurse uttered the word "Fire!" and then fainted.

Guest Saves One Child.

Meanwhile Patrolman Walsh, of the East 88th street station, had been told of the fire by Professor John T. Barnell, Jr., of Lawrenceville Academy, a guest at the Raetz house, who ran into the street with the older child in his arms. Professor Barnell said last night he had gone to the Raetz home about 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon to have dinner with the family and take part in a belated Christmas celebration. The maid, who had been in the park with the two children, returned about 5 o'clock, and preparations were made for the lighting of a Christmas tree which stood at the further end of a large reception room on the first floor.

The older child, Griswold, was playing about the apartment, and Miss Gould had taken his baby brother, Robert, Jr., to the nursery on the top floor when Mr. Raetz began lighting the tree. Professor Barnell was talking with Mrs. Raetz when he heard a shout from her husband. He looked up to see the tree a mass of flames, which were shooting up into the draperies about the window. At the same time both the father and mother, evidently forgetting for the moment that one of the children was in the room, started up the stairway calling to the maid to take the little ones out through the trapdoor on to the roof.

Professor Barnell snatched up the little boy and ran out into the street, where he found Patrolman Walsh on fixed post. He handed the child over to the care of a passerby, and with the policeman tried to get back into the house. It took several minutes to beat in the door, and when the men tried to enter a rush of flame met them in the hallway. Both made desperate attempts to get inside, but were finally driven back. They then went into the house of Charles Morgan, next door, and got on the roof, but flames were roaring out of the trapdoor, making entrance impossible.

Find Bodies Together.

By this time the fire apparatus had arrived, in charge of Captain James Tierney and Acting Deputy Chief Dougherty. They found that the house, originally a four story brownstone front building, had been recently remodelled into an English dwelling and basement affair, with a total depth of only a little more than sixteen feet. Once the trapdoor in the roof had been opened the house was doomed. After almost three hours' desperate work the flames were drenched out and firemen were able to get inside.

At first it was believed that Mr. and Mrs. Raetz had escaped. Two careful searches were made of the house, but the insistence of Professor Donall caused a third search, which revealed their fate. Under a heap of blackened timbers and ashes near a window on the top floor Chief Dougherty uncovered the charred bodies of Mr. and Mrs. Raetz. They were lying side by side, where they had apparently been overcome by the flames while they were trying to make their escape following their search for their children. Mr. and Mrs. Raetz were well known socially both here and abroad. Mr. Raetz was an architect of distinction,

GRANDMOTHER IN COLLEGE

Studies Farming to Aid Suffrage—Daughter Outranks Her.

(By Telegraph to The Tribune.) Philadelphia, Jan. 5.—Mrs. Rachel Foster A. Ry, one of the first presidents of the Pennsylvania Suffrage Association and a grandmother, is studying to be a farmer at the University of Wisconsin. She is a freshman, while her daughter is a sophomore. If Mrs. Ry has her way her granddaughter will enroll in the institution when she attains the proper age.

Mrs. Ry declares that one way to assist the suffrage cause is to become a successful farmer, and thus humble man's pride in a calling in which he fancies he is supreme.

TIME CARDS AT HARVARD

Professors Must Show How They Earn Salaries.

(By Telegraph to The Tribune.) Boston, Jan. 5.—The first cousin of the time clock, the time card, has been introduced in Harvard and is being tried on the professors to aid in "scientific management."

Each professor has received time cards with places to answer questions, such as the number of hours spent in actual instruction, the number of hours spent in preparation for each lecture or recitation, time spent in conference with students, in personal research work, correcting examination papers, assigning grades, and ninety-three other items.

DR. BUTLER IS SILENT

On Report That Republican Electors Will Vote for Him.

All attempts failed yesterday to get President Nicholas Murray Butler of Columbia University to discuss the report that the Republican electors would cast their votes for him for Vice-President.

William Barnes Jr., Republican State Chairman, made light of it, saying that he did not think the electors had fastened upon any one person. He seemed inclined to think that since the vote would be entirely complimentary they would pick out different favorites for the honor.

MAKE MARRIAGE A SCIENCE

Study of Parents One Plan, Commission Is Another.

(By Telegraph to The Tribune.) Boston, Jan. 5.—Matrimony is to be no longer a lottery. Bay State women are making it a science. One prominent woman has devised a plan for a lover to make sure of his sweetheart by studying her parents. Another is demanding a commission to decide finally whether the young man is to buy the engagement ring and the girl her trousseau.

Mrs. Clara A. Marsh, treasurer of the Fathers and Mothers Club, of Boston, is the discoverer of the study-the-parents plan. "It is only reasonable that the daughter should be a copy of the mother," declares Mrs. Marsh, "and even though the mother may be short and fat, while the daughter is tall and willowy, their general appearance is nine times out of ten alike." She continued:

To young men I say: "Look upon the face of the girl's father. If he has a worried, unsettled look, pay accurate attention to how his wife greets him when he arrives home from work. If the mother is always urging him to obtain more wealth, beware of her marriageable daughter."

Mrs. Charles Ellinwood, social worker, proposes the commission plan. She says unwise marriages will be prevented if young couples go before the commission and answer the following questions satisfactorily before they are allowed to marry:

- 1—How long have you known this young woman?
- 2—Where did you meet her?
- 3—Why do you think you love her?
- 4—How much money have you in the bank?
- 5—What is your business?
- 6—How much do you earn weekly?
- 7—Is your disposition good?

The girl also must testify as to her ability to cook.